

15 A E. 1977 (15)
L E T T E R



TO A

Member of Parliament.

I N

R E F E R E N C E

To His Royal Highness

PRINCE GEORGE of DENMARK.

S I R,

AMONGST those other Matters of Weight which may be laid before you in this Sessions of Parliament, it may be very Just and Reasonable to take it into your Serious Consideration the Concern of His Royal Highness Prince *George* of Denmark, as he is the Happy Husband of our most Gracious Queen.

IF we Reflect on the Obligations which these Nations lie under to His Royal Highness; How early He (and
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Her present Majesty doubtless by his Direction and Consent Appeared in Assisting our late King in the Vindication and Preservation of our Liberties and Properties; How readily his *Royal Highness* had Engaged his Patrimonial Estate in *Denmark*, for Procuring Forces out of that Kingdom to serve in the Reduction of *Ireland* to the Crown of *England*; And how Voluntarily he Exposed himself to the Danger of that War for the Advantage of *England*; How firmly his *Royal Highness* hath at all Times Adhered to the True *English* Interest by his Votes in the House of Lords, whenever any Matter relating thereunto came in Debate. We unanimously must Acknowledge our Sense of his *Royal Highness's* Inestimable Merits; and withal, Remember that we have not as yet made such suitable and Grateful Returns, as reasonably might be expected from us.

IF we Consider His *Royal Highness's* great Affection to the Communion of the Church of *England*, and that he is so Zealous a Professer of the *Protestant* Religion, That rather than depart from it, he Refus'd a Crown which another Prince Accepted on those Terms; We must necessarily have the highest Esteem for such an unparallel'd Virtue and Constancy.

IF we weigh the Benefit to our Trade, the Addition to our Land and Naval Forces, which the Kingdom of *Denmark* is able to Afford us, we must allow that his *Royal Highness's* Interest in that Country, is a good Pledge for our Security of that Assistance on any Immergent Occasion, as we have already Experienced.

IF we consider that as His *Royal Highness* is the Happy Consort of our most Gracious Queen, so he may have a great Share in her Majesty's Councils, and in the present Ministry, we ought in Prudence to Pay the greatest Respects which are within our Power, to a Person so nearly Concern'd in the Kingdoms Happiness.

I pass by those other eminent Virtues of his *Royal Highness*, which are too well known already to the World, and which have gain'd him an Empire in the Hearts of all Men; but must add, That it is a Regard but justly due to Her Majesty, that you make some Provision of *Honour* and *Revenue* for his *Royal Highness*, during his Life, who is the Best of Husbands, and as he hath been, so he may be again, a Joyful Father to those who may Inherit the Imperial Crown of *England*.

Consider how Unpresidented a Thing it is in this Kingdom to see the *Husband* a Subject to his *Wife*; and how contrary to Nature's Custom, and the Apostolical Institutions it is, that the Man who Claims of Right a Superiority, must be in Subjection, if the Woman pleases?

IT Remains, That I offer you my Thoughts herein: Which are, First, That in this Sessions of Parliament, you move, That his *Royal Highness* may by Act of Parliament, be Invested with the Honorary Title of *King of England*, &c. in Conjunction with her Majesty, your present Queen; Yet that the Administration of the Regal Power may be solely in her Majesty. The Royal Stile may be imparted to more than One, without the least Inconvenience thereby arising to the Nation, tho' the Sovereign Power can be Lodged no where but in a single Person. Thus have we seen in the Reigns of King *Philip* and Queen *Mary*, and now lately of King *William* and Queen *Mary*; but in each Reign, all Acts, all Grants, &c. Pass'd in both Names of King and Queen, and all Money Coined, bore both their Effigies.

Secondly, TO move, That a Revenue may be Settled on his *Royal Highness*, during his Life. And a Third Motion to be, That if her Majesty should Die without Issue of her Body, his *Royal Highness* Surviving, the Administration of the Government to be in his *Royal Highness*, during his Life, with Regard to the Rights of the People, let forth in the late Act.

To the last Motion may be Objected:

First, THAT by an Act of Parliament the Succession of the Crown of England is already Settled on the Princess *Sophia*, Dutchess Dowager of *Hannover*, and the Issue of her Body; after the Demise of our present Queen, without Issue of her Body, and that by the Oath commonly called, *The Oath of Abjuration*, we are oblig'd to Defend the Succession, as it is by that Act appointed.

Secondly, THAT His Royal Highness is not in the Line of Succession to the Crown: To these *Objections* I Answer,

First, THAT our Queen is not of half the Age of the Princess *Sophia*, nor near that of the present Duke of *Hannover* (that Princess's Son and Heir) so that by Course of Nature, her Majesty may out-live both the One and the Other, (which God Grant, and the whole Nation heartily Prays for) and consequently the Damage to that Dutchess and Duke is hardly Imaginary.

Secondly, SINCE neither that Dutchess nor Duke can Claim the Crown of England by Descent, there is in this Case no Injury done to her Highness, or to any Claiming by her, for there can be no Wrong in with-holding what a Person hath no Right to Challenge.

Thirdly, THE Power of the Queen and Her Parliament, for Limiting, Binding, Restraining of the Crown of this Realm, &c. is still in Force, notwithstanding the late Act: And as they have Power to Repeal or Alter any Part of that Act, so they have Power to Dissolve the Obligation of the Oath relating to that Act; and for this, we have several Precedents. In the Reign of King *Henry* the Seventh, by Act of Parliament, the Crown of England was Settled upon that King and the Heirs of his Body, and an Oath taken for the Defence thereof.

IN the 25th Year of the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth (Son to King *Henry* the Seventh) passing by the Lady *Mary* his

his Eldest Daughter, by his first Wife, Queen *Katherine*, the Crown of *England*, was by Act of Parliament, Settled on King *Henry* the Eighth, and the Heirs of his Body by Queen *Anne*, the Mother of Queen *Elizabeth*, and by that Statute every Subject of full Age was to take an Oath to Defend the Contents of that Act. In the 26th year of that King, an Oath is particularly appointed for that Purpose in another Act of Parliament. In the 28th year of his Reign, both these Acts are Repeal'd, and the Crown is Entail'd on that King and the Heirs of his Body by Queen *Jane*, Mother to King *Edward* the 6th. In the 35th year of his Reign, an Act is Pass'd for Settling the Crown after the Death of that King, and Prince *Edward* without Issue, on the Lady *Mary* and the Heirs of her Body, on failure of such Issue, on the Lady *Elizabeth* and the Heirs of her Body, and on failure of such Issue, on whom that King would please to Settle it by Will, &c. And an Oath is Enacted for Observance of that Statute. These Dying without Issue the Crown Descended on King *James* the First, as Heir of the Body of King *Henry* the 7th. And in the 3^d. year of his Reign, an Oath, (commonly call'd the Oath of Allegiance) is Enacted for Defending that King and his Heirs, which Oath is Abrogated by an Act pass'd in the late Reign. Thus we see how Acts pass'd for Establishing the Succession to the Crown, and Oaths for Defending the Contents of those Acts, have been frequently Made, Repeal'd, and Abrogated.

Fourthly, Her Majesty, our present Queen (who was Heir Presumptive to her Sister the Princess of *Orange*, as being of the whole Blood) consented to Postpone her Succession to the Crown unto the Life of the late King, who could have no Pretence to the Crown after the Death of his Queen, by whom he never had Issue Born, other than by the Consent of the next Heir, and Will of the People; So that the Dutcheß of *Hannover* or the Issue of her Body, cannot justly Resent that his Royal Highness should Enjoy the Crown during his Life, at the Desire, and for the Advantage of the Kingdom; And in Gratitude, I think this should not be Deny'd to her Majesty and his Royal Highness.

Fifthly,

Fifthly, This Settlement of the Crown on his *Royal Highness*, as is Propos'd, may in these Distemper'd Times Confound the ill Designs of such Male-Contents, who are ready to take Refuge in Foreign Courts, and there Plot and Contrive Disturbance to our Gracious *Queen* and her Government. That Wise and Fortunate Princess *Queen Elizabeth*, would never be persuaded to Declare a Foreign Prince to be her Successor ; No, not tho' there was one (King *James* the 1st.) who was her Presumptive Heir, and in the Line of Succession to King *Henry* the 7th. Besides, there is a sufficient Provision made by Act of *Parliament*, for Excluding any *Roman Catholick* Prince from Succeeding to the Crown of *England*, and thereby the Succession is Secur'd to be in the *Protestant* Line, without the Aid of the late Act, which Names those who may not live till it falls on 'em.

Second Objection, That his *Royal Highness* is not in the Line of Succession to the Crown.

To which I Answer ;

First, That by *Articles of Marriage* His *Royal Highness* is brought into the Condition of being a Prince of the Blood of *England*; which Articles are Confirm'd by the Naturalization of his *Royal Highness* by Act of *Parliament*.

Secondly, If his *Royal Highness* Survive our present *Queen*, he may Claim as Tenant, by the Courtesy of *England* ; There is a Law for it, and no Preident against it. King *Philip* was King of *Spain* before his Marriage with *Queen Mary* of *England* ; and lest *England* might come to be Annex'd as a Province to *Spain*, by Act of *Parliament*, that King was Debarr'd from Claiming any Right to the Crown of *England*, after the Death of *Queen Mary*, tho' he might have had Issue by her. His *Royal Highness* hath had Issue by our *Queen*, which Entitles him to be Tenant by the Courtesy
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of *England* during his Life; Towards the clearing of which point,
an Act of *Tarliament* may be Necessary and Effectual.

Thirdly, There is no more here Desired in *Favour*
and *Behalf* of his Royal Highness, than what was Granted to the
Prince of Orange, who had no *Previous Right* to the Crown, nor
more than was at that Time by some thought Reasonable to have
been Settled on his Royal Highness in his Turn (whilst his Eminent
Merits were then fresh in Memory) had not the late King design'd
the bringing the Heirs of the Duke of *Zell* into the Succession of the
Crown of *England*, under the Notion of their being in the *Protestant*
Line of Succession, and thereby Obstructed it. And there are some
will tell us of an Original Contract and Obligation (bearing Date
some few Months before the Revolution) between the *Prince of Orange*
and Duke of *Zell* for that very purpose; it being well known that that
Duke was his Great Adviser, and his only Coufident in all his knot-
ty Enterprizes.

Lastly, There's a Possibility by Pursuing this Pro-
posal, of adding *Denmark* to the Crown of *England*, during his Roy-
al Highness's Life, which may be very *Advantagious* to this *Realm*.

TO CONCLUDE,

*The Extraordinary Merits of his Royal Highness, the
Advantages which have and may come to these Kingdoms;
the Title in Law which may fall on his Royal Highness, if
he Survive her Majesty, do all speak in Favour of this
Proposal. So God Direct you.*

I am, Sir,

Novem. 12. 1702.

Your most Faithful Humble Servant.

F I N I S.



TO CONCLUDE